

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 1191
By Turner L

A RESOLUTION to continue the special joint committee to study public school dropout rates in Tennessee.

WHEREAS, the special joint committee on public school dropout rates in Tennessee was created by the One Hundred Third General Assembly pursuant to House Joint Resolution No. 19, as amended; and

WHEREAS, the study was undertaken in response to the 2002 Statewide Report Card by the Tennessee Department of Education that gave Tennessee's public schools (grades 9-12) a grade of C, or average, relative to the number of children who dropped out of school prior to graduation; and

WHEREAS, with 12.5 percent as the dropout percentage rate for 2002, Tennessee showed some improvement from 2001, when 13.9 percent of Tennessee's children had dropped out of school prior to earning a high school diploma; and

WHEREAS, we continuously strive to achieve a 0 percent dropout rate in Tennessee, where every child who enters school will eventually graduate with a high school diploma; and

WHEREAS, a 1987 research report, entitled *Dropout Prevention: What We Have Learned*, states: "Increasingly, it is being recognized that the issues of dropping out and dropout prevention cannot be separated from issues affecting our total economic and social structure. These issues include poverty, unemployment, discrimination, the role of the family, social values, the welfare cycle, child abuse, and drug abuse"; and

WHEREAS, it is imperative to the success of this State's children, and hence its economy and the total welfare of its people, that the individual and societal factors contributing to our public schools' exceptionally high dropout rate be studied to assist the General Assembly in addressing this perplexing problem; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that the special joint committee to study public school dropout rates in Tennessee created by House Joint Resolution No. 19, as amended, of the One Hundred Third General Assembly, be continued until February 28, 2005.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the membership of the committee as constituted in House Joint Resolution No. 19 of the One Hundred Third General Assembly as amended, shall consist of three (3) members of the House of Representatives appointed by the Speaker of the House and three (3) members of the Senate appointed by the Speaker of the Senate.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that all appropriate state agencies shall provide assistance to the special joint committee upon request of the chair.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that all legislative members of the special joint committee who are duly elected members of the General Assembly shall remain members of such committee until the committee reports its findings and recommendations to the General Assembly.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the special joint committee shall be convened by the member with the most years of continuous service in the General Assembly, and at its first meeting shall elect a chair, vice chair, and such other officers the committee deems necessary.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the special joint committee shall timely report its findings and recommendations, including any proposed legislation or interim reports, to the One Hundred Fourth General Assembly no later than February 28, 2005, at which time the committee shall cease to exist.